

# It's All About Education

In this issue  
we look at  
several training  
paths and  
the types of  
occupational  
choices they  
provide

Education enables individuals to have more options, more control, and more freedom to choose. Education and training are key to personal, societal, and economic success, and pay off both for the individual and for the economy.

In a personal sense, the more knowledge you can acquire, the more power and


prestige you will have, and the more potential of personal fulfillment and satisfaction. In an economic sense, the more skill, education, and training the populace has, the more efficient the workforce will be, and the more productive and competitive the economy will become.

What do I want to be when I grow up? That's a question we all ask ourselves, whether we are teenagers or seasoned adults. What does education do to help us in the process? It is an "enabler." It enables us to earn more money, stay employed, have more choices, and make a better contribution to society. With it we don't limit our options. Without it we may. Smarter, educated people make better, more thoughtful decisions. Everyone benefits from this. Education improves our productivity and standard of living.

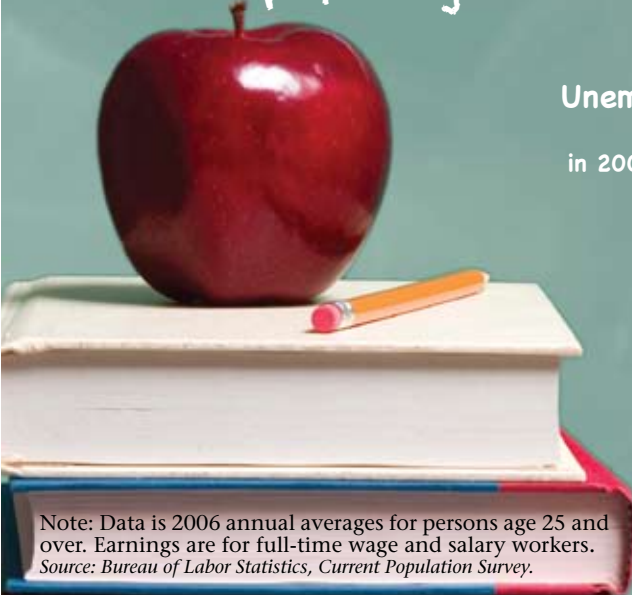
You may think, I don't want to go on to more schooling. I'm tired of school. I just went through 12 years of it! Well you can get paid some now or earn much more later...if you get more training. It won't take long for you to find out that an entry level low- or no-skill job now might make a car payment but won't do much more. To

make good money, you need post-high school training of some kind.

More education doesn't always mean becoming a doctor or lawyer. It means more training past high school. There are thousands of jobs that don't require four or more years of training. Some workers may get by with just a high school diploma. Some very motivated persons may become very successful by starting from scratch and working their way up the line. However, most won't. Career advancement is accelerated by more training and education, but career advancement may be stymied by the lack of a license, a certificate, or a degree. Many intelligent workers are dead-ended in their jobs because they lack what their employers or the market require—a degree.

The more education workers have, the more competitive they will be in the job market. Employers will typically select the highest qualified applicant. If that person has more education or a degree when the other competitors don't, Mr. Employer won't hesitate to take the worker that has the edge. The point is, education is essential, for every person and for our society. 

## Education pays in higher earnings and lower unemployment rates



U.S. Unemployment Rate in 2006 (Percent)	Education Attained	U.S. Median Weekly Earnings in 2006 (Dollars)
1.4	Doctoral degree	\$1,441
1.1	Professional degree	1,474
1.7	Master's degree	1,140
2.3	Bachelor's degree	962
3.0	Associate degree	721
3.9	Some college, no degree	674
4.3	High-school graduate	595
6.8	Less than a high school diploma	419

Note: Data is 2006 annual averages for persons age 25 and over. Earnings are for full-time wage and salary workers. Source: Bureau of Labor Statistics, Current Population Survey.